Shellfishing in the Town of Truro Massachusetts

Frequently asked questions

1. Is a permit required for recreational shellfishing in Truro?

Yes, permits are required for the taking of shellfish in Truro. Annual and weekly permits are available. When shellfishing your permit must be worn so it is visible.

2. How much do permits cost?

Annual permit for Truro residents are \$15 Annual permit for non-residents are \$100 Weekly permit for non-residents are \$25

3. How long are permits good for?

Annual permits are valid from November 1 and expire October 31 the following year. Weekly permits are valid for seven consecutive days beginning on the date of purchase.

4. Where do I get a permit?

Permits are available for purchase at the Truro Town Hall Selectmen's Office Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm. Or through the mail with a check or credit card payment.

5. Where can I go shellfishing in Truro?

All year round shellfish can be collected from Truro bay beaches all days of the week. Shellfishing in the Pamet Harbor, Pamet River and Little Pamet River is permitted from November 1 to April 1 on Sundays only.

6. When can I go shellfishing in Truro?

One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Pamet Harbor area is open on Sundays only from Nov. 1 to April 1. Bay side beaches are open for shellfishing all year round.

7. What types of shellfish can I harvest?

Quahogs, oysters, soft shell clams, razor clams, sea clams and blue mussels are found in the waters of Truro.

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8. How much shellfish can I take home?

The combined weekly catch limit is one 10-quart basket, of which oysters may not constitute more than ½ of the basket (5 quarts). This means you can have a maximum of ½ basket of oysters. The weekly limit for sea clams is 2-10 quart baskets per week.

9. What are the size limits for shellfish in Truro?

Quahogs must be a minimum of 1" across the hinge Soft shell clams must be a minimum of 2" long Mussels must be a minimum of 2" long Razor Clams must be a minimum of 3" long Oysters must be a minimum of 3" long Sea Clams must be a minimum of 5" long

10. Can I take someone shellfishing with me?

Yes. But remember the limit is for the permit holder only.

11. What equipment do I need to shell fish

You are required to have a shellfish gauge in your possession. In addition, a 10-quart wire basket is recommended. You will also want a rake, boots and gloves.

12. How do I collect shellfish?

Rake the area where you see little holes in the sand. Usually quahogs are about as deep as the tines on your rake. Soft shell clams and razor clams are typically deeper and require digging a hole. Remember to fill in your hole and to replace any undersized shellfish. Do not disturb the eelgrass beds.

13. Can I shellfish for crabs?

State law prohibits taking of crab between January 1 - April 31. Use of pots or traps requires a license from the Division of Marine Fisheries.

14. Anything else?

Display your permit.
Please use 10 qt. wire basket.
Please fill in your holes.
Please replace & bury all undersized shellfish.
Field shucking is not permitted
Dogs are discouraged on the flats

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Use 10 qt. wire basket



Oyster 3" min.



Quahog – If it is less than 1" thick it's too small



Razor Clam 3" min.



Blue Mussel 2" min.

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Sea Clam 5" min.

Soft Shell Clam 2" min.